



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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News Release

For immediate release:

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INDOT Publishes Final Environmental Impact Study For U.S. 31 Kokomo Corridor *Record of Decision Nears For \$345 Million Major Moves Project*

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – One of the largest and most anticipated projects in Governor Daniels' Major Moves transportation plan is one step closer to becoming a reality. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published the Final Environmental Impact Study (FEIS) for the U.S. 31 Kokomo Corridor Project today. The document details the selected alternative for the project along with responses to public comments and questions submitted on the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) and Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Study (SDEIS).

The FHWA is anticipated to follow the FEIS with a Record of Decision (ROD) in approximately 30 days, allowing the design phase to begin. Construction is expected to begin in 2009 and last approximately six years.

The preferred alternative for the project calls for a new, limited-access, four-lane freeway located approximately two miles east of the existing U.S. 31 on the south end and approximately 1.2 miles east of the existing U.S. 31 on the north. The U.S. 31 Kokomo Corridor Project is located primarily in Howard County and covers a distance of approximately 14 miles.

The DEIS, issued in April 2005, was supplemented with the SDEIS in October 2006 after public and agency input indicated changes were needed to improve connectivity both to and across the proposed U.S. 31 alignment, improve safety and operations at the U.S. 35 intersection to the north of Kokomo and reduce the environmental impact of the project.

"The FEIS takes years of investigation into transportation patterns, land use, geographical elements, environmental impacts and significant public input, and combines it all into a final recommendation for the FHWA," said INDOT commissioner Karl B. Browning. "Public participation has been a key component of this project and was much of the impetus for developing the recommendations. We are confident that implementing these will address the issues along the corridor and improve transportation use for all who travel it."

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Visitors to www.us31kokomo.com can view the FEIS on-line and review detailed maps of the recommended alternative. Questions and comments can also be made by calling the project office toll-free at 866-821-6301, by fax at 317-616-1033, or by sending a letter to:

- U.S. 31 Kokomo Corridor Project
Parsons
902 North Capitol Ave., Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The FEIS also can be viewed at the following locations:

- Kokomo-Howard County Public Library, Main Library, 220 N. Union St., Kokomo 765-457-3242
- Kokomo-Howard County Public Library, South Branch, 1755 E. Center Rd., Kokomo 765-453-4150
- Kokomo-Howard County Governmental Coordinating Council (GCC), 120 E. Mulberry St., Ste. 116, Kokomo 765-456-2336
- City Building, Development Department, 100 S. Union St., 2nd Fl., Kokomo 765-456-7375
- INDOT Greenfield District Office, 32 South Broadway, Greenfield 317-462-7751
- INDOT Public Hearings Office, 100 N. Senate Ave., Room N901, Indianapolis 317-232-5457
- Tipton County Public Library, 127 E. Madison St., Tipton 765-675-8761

For further information about the U.S. 31 Kokomo Corridor Project, contact Andy Dietrick, Director of Communications, Indiana Department of Transportation, at 317-232-5503.

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Media Contact: Andy Dietrick, INDOT Office of Communications, (317) 232-5503.